

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated July 25, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-9, 11-28, 30-50, and 52-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Xue in view of Venkatraman and Doganata. This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 as amended recites, *inter alia*, “creating a plurality of disposition identifiers in response to a plurality of disposition event corresponding to a change in message status; associating the plurality of disposition identifiers with said message, wherein disposition identifiers are associated with the message in response to a change in message status; determining whether accessing of said message constitutes a triggering event; and creating said status notification when said accessing of said message constitutes said triggering event, the status notification including disposition identifiers created prior to the triggering event..” Support for these features is found in at least paragraph [0046] of Applicants’ specification. None of Xue, Venkatraman and Doganata teaches or suggests this feature.

In analyzing claim 1 related to creation of disposition identifiers, the Examiner cites to Doganata. Doganata teaches a system in which a sender of an email can cancel the email and receive a confirmation of the cancellation. The cancellation confirmation includes a single disposition identifier, namely that the email was canceled. This is contrary to claim 1, which recites a plurality of disposition identifiers in the status notification. A plurality of disposition identifiers allows the sender to see the progress of the message through multiple disposition events. None of Xue, Venkatraman and Doganata teaches or suggests this feature. Thus, even if Xue, Venkatraman and Doganata are combined, at least these features of claim 1 do not result.

Further, there is insufficient motivation to combine Xue, Venkatraman and Doganata as proposed by the Examiner. Venkatraman teaches sending a status message when the recipient accesses an email. It is not clear why a second status notification would be needed in Venkatraman related to the sender’s cancellation of the email. In Venkatraman, the status notification to the sender is used to collect a response from the recipient. If the sender in

Venkatraman cancels the email (as taught in Doganata), the sender in Venkatraman would not need a response from the recipient as the email has been canceled. Thus, it is not clear how the status notification of Venkatraman, which is a response from the recipient, could be modified with the cancellation confirmation of Doganata. The recipient cannot send a response if the email has been canceled. There is simply insufficient motivation to combine Xue, Venkatraman and Doganata as proposed by the Examiner.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Xue in view of Venkatraman and Doganata. Claims 3-9 and 11-19 variously depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Xue in view of Venkatraman and Doganata for at least the reasons advanced with reference to independent claim 1.

Independent claims 20 and 42 recite features similar to those discussed above with reference to independent claim 1 and are patentable over Xue in view of Venkatraman and Doganata for at least the reasons advanced with reference to independent claim 1. Claims 22-28 and 31-41 variously depend from independent claim 20 and are patentable over Xue in view of Venkatraman and Doganata for at least the reasons advanced with reference to independent claim 20. Claims 44-50 and 52-63 variously depend from independent claim 42 and are patentable over Xue in view of Venkatraman and Doganata for at least the reasons advanced with reference to independent claim 42.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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